

WpH

WILBUR HALL

My dear Charles F. Lummis:

In the paleolithic age, when Los Angeles was made up of home folks and we all chinned together in the columns of The Times, I was a reporter there. You may remember the name, though it's doubtful. Even not remembering it won't change you any from the great-hearted, splendid Californian you are — and bad luck to the day when ever we were swamped by the influx of outlanders and your type became so rare! That's that!

Just now what is on my chest is that, living up here for the past six years, I have founded and am producing every year an out-of-door play in Los Gatos. It is not comparable with John McGroarty's Mission Play, but it is nearer that than anything else in the state, except not religious in tone or significance — a secular drama, of the early days of California.

You are a benefactor of the human race as far as early California plays go, because of your long study of the early folk-music, as exemplified in your book of early California (Mexican) songs. I have bought three copies in San Jose; now I am organizing a mandolin and guitar club to furnish the music this coming summer and am about to start a chorus also. We will use your book exclusively.

Can you see your way clear to sending me 24 copies of the book on consignment to re-sell to the chorus members, and can you make me any reduction in the price which, for plain folks like mine, is a trifle steep. Not that the book is n't worth it — I marvel that you can sell it retail for what you do. But in this case, and for the number of books I indicate, I have wondered if you would n't make an arrangement.

In any event I want the books, so you have me on the hip there. In case of any doubt I can refer you to A.M. Chaffey, the banker, Charles Toll of the Security, Sam T. Clover, Gaylord Wilshire, William Mulholland, W.B. Mathews, or Miss Susie Ott, of the public library, among others. I shall be grateful for an early reply.

With most cordial wishes

Hidden Farm, Los Gatos, California.  
7th January, XXV.

Wilbur Hall



January ninth  
Nineteen twenty five.

Mr. Wilbur Hall,  
Hidden Farm,  
Los Gatos, Cal.

Dear Mr. Hall:

I do--remember you ( though very faintly I am free to say) and I have had a lot of things to think of since those paleolithic days, and most of them seem quite hazy but I am glad to hear from you again.

Thats fine that you have founded the Out-door play we need a lot of that out here.

The book of Spanish Songs of Old California is not a commercial venture with me for " everything I make" goes back into more Songs. But of course I want to make all I can for that purpose and this First Book is now selling well along in its 5th thousand, which is a fine record for privately printed Music.

My great object is to disseminate these Songs and get them sung and get them part of our daily furniture; and it is encouraging that they are finding a lodgement in the hearts of every State in the Union. Of course I will be glad to send you 24 copies of the book on consignment, and will make you the dealers rate of 1/3 off at 30 days -- \$1.00 each. you to pay carriage. I realize that choruses generally have members that cannot afford a \$1.50 book.

I am glad you have become familiar with this book. I violate no confidence when I say that it will be historic. I am trying to get out the 2nd Book but have been much handicapped. I hope to "make it" within the next two or three months.



2 Hall.

Let me know if this suits you; and if so I will send the 24 books by express at once. Use enclosed Subscription Blank.

With best wishes for your work and thanking you for the pleasant letter.

Sincerely Yours,

CFL/MD



January fourteenth  
Nineteen twenty five

Mr. Wilbur Hall,  
Hidden Farm,  
Los Gatos, Cal.

Dear Mr. Hall:

O. K. I sent you by express, carriage collect the 24 copies,  
and enclosed bill.

I trust they will find the welcome that you and I feel  
they deserve. I ask no ones opinion as to what they are  
God knows they are the sort of Thing we need in our Jazz-  
infested lives! The only question is, how many of us retain  
sufficient human nature to recognize and welcome the dear  
gift of Folksongs.

With best wishes.

Always Your Friend,

CFL/MD




WILBUR HALL

My dear Charles F. Lummis,

I am enclosing my check for the song books.  
Already half of them are gone and we are n't started  
with the hhsrus. I hope we will take another  
dozen books before we are through.

Good luck and the best of health to you!

Hidden Farm, Los Gatos,  
3d February, xxv.





Feb. 5,  
19 25.

Mr. Wilbur Hall,  
Hidden Farm,  
Los Gatos, Cal.

Dear Wilbur Hall:

Thank you for your promptness, and I am glad that the Song Books are going so well. It won't hurt my feelings at all when you are ready for another dozen-- for my great dream is to see these songs come back to their own in California. They are selling very well in the East, and that is worth while; but by every dear ideal, they ought to take possession again of that romantic soil from which they sprung and on which they were being trodden under foot.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

CFL/B